IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-20 are canceled.

New claims 21-26 are added as follows:

21.   (New)   A method for managing a network of devices consuming a resource provided by a utility, said method comprising the steps of:

initiating a state change from a utility computing platform, to affect resource consumption at at least one premise;

receiving said state change from said utility computing platform at a gateway at said at least one premise;

processing, at said gateway, said state change from said utility computing platform to determine an energy management scheme for affecting resource consumption at said at least one premise;

translating, at said gateway, said state change from said utility computing platform into a native format used by at least one device in said network of devices consuming said resource; and

generating control signals to control said network of devices consuming said resource, said control signals being a function of said state change from said utility platform and said energy management scheme determined by processing at said gateway.

22. (New) The method of claim 21 further including the steps of

monitoring consumption of devices at said gateway to determine compliance with said energy

management scheme; and

feeding back to said utility computing platform results of said monitoring step.

23. (New) The method of claim 22 wherein additional state changes may be initiated by said

utility as a function of the results of said monitoring step.

24. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein said at least one premise is a single premise or a

selected grouping of premises.

25. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein said processing step involves applying rules

from a rules engine to said state change.

26. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein said additional state changes are initiated to

achieve target demand reduction.